

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB977

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 02, 2010
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: Mello
One Liner: Require new state buildings and renovations to comply with energy efficiency standards

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 6 Senators Coash, Cook, Krist, Lathrop, McGill, Rogert
Nay:
Absent: 1 Senator White
Present Not Voting:

Proponents: Heath Mello Kenneth C. Winston Chad Jahanson April Miller W. Cecil Steward Dave Johnson Douglas R. Clark	Representing: (introducer) Nebraska Sierra Club USGBC-NFC Design Community Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities American Institute of Architects, Nebraska Chapter Metropolitan Utilities District
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral: Shelley Sahling-Zart Rebecca Keller Stan Carpenter Marc Nichols	Representing: Lincoln Electric System University of Nebraska NSCS Omaha Public Power
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 977 would require new state buildings and renovations to comply with energy efficient standards.

Comments/Analysis:

LB 977 would require new state buildings and renovations greater than 5000 square feet in size to achieve LEED silver certification. Renovation projects would have the additional requirement that the cost of the renovation exceed fifty percent of the value of the building to fit into the category regulated by this legislation. This new standard would apply to all state agencies, state colleges and the University of Nebraska, and would take effect January 1, 2011.

Details:

LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance in the areas of energy savings, water efficiency, CO2 emission reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

LEED was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council and provides building owners and operators a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. It is flexible enough to apply to all building types %u2013 commercial to residential, and is designed to work throughout the building life cycle, from initial design and construction to significant retrofit and renovation.

The 2009 Silver Certified status indicates that the building received between 50 and 59 points out of a possible 100. Categories include Sustainable Sites (26 possible points), Water Efficiency (10 possible points), Energy and Atmosphere (35 possible points), Materials and Resources (14 possible points), Indoor Environmental Quality (15 possible points). Additional points may be awarded in the areas of Innovation in Design (6 possible points) and Regional Priority (4 possible points).

Explanation of amendments:

Am 2100 strikes the sections of the original bill. The amendment requires that, beginning on January 1, 2015, any capital improvement project undertaken by a state agency, state college or the University of Nebraska, must achieve Energy Star certification. Energy Star is the program used by the United States Department of Energy and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The amendment also provides that any conflict between Energy Star requirements and the 2003 International conservation code applicable to state buildings by NRS § 72-805 be resolved by the application of the more stringent standard.

Capital improvement project is defined in NRS § 81-188.02, subsections (1) (a) through (c).

Amanda McGill, Chairperson